

# Is Your Spouse Annoying You?



Is your spouse annoying you?  
Before marriage, opposites attract.

After marriages, opposites attack. What was once appealing is now annoying!

Before Susan and I got married over 21 years ago, she was attracted to me for my decisiveness and strong will. As the years have gone by, those qualities sometimes bother her. At this stage in her life, she's looking for more empathy and understanding, not a bull in the china shop.

Before marriage, I was attracted to Susan for her creativeness and do everything attitude; now that messy demeanor and busyness all the time can annoy me. I want more order in the house. I want more of her time and attention

So, what should we do? Have a standoff for the rest of our life together? Of course not. We should remember and appreciate those qualities we first saw in our spouse. At the same time, we can share with them that we are in a different season of life where we desire more patience, kindness, or \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank). We also need to be willing to work on changing some things in our own behavior to meet the wishes of our spouse at this stage in our relationship.

Please note that the point here is not to create unrealistic expectations for our spouse or them for us. We don't have the power to change them, nor them us. Also, realize that it may be a long process for the change to take place.

Mark Merrill, author of The Family Minute

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## RESOURCES FOR COUPLES

### Did you know that your marriage can be one of your life's most rewarding relationships?

It is a challenge to build a strong, God-honoring relationship. Whether you are 18 or 80, dating, engaged, or married, there is a class or seminar for the two of you.

**ART OF MARRIAGE®** brings together some of the most respected experts on marriage. This video event, weaves together real-life testimonies; man-on-the-street interviews; and humorous vignettes to help you experience God's design for marriage. Art of Marriage is being offered at 15 area churches. Find a location near you at [www.kpdq.com/ContentPages/3664/wide](http://www.kpdq.com/ContentPages/3664/wide). An great and enjoyable way to strengthen your relationship.

**RETRouvaille** is here for you if you relationship is going through difficulties. If there is little or no meaningful communication, or you are considering separation or divorce, we believe Retrouvaille can help. It is a Catholic ministry welcoming couples of all faiths and offers couples the chance to heal their marriage and to rediscover each other. The program consists of a weekend plus six evening sessions that expand on the weekend's concepts. Fri-Sun, Apr 19-21 at Mt Angel and at Seattle. Details at [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org)

**SOLOMON, SEX & MARRIAGE** with Shane & Phyllis Womack. A frank, honest, biblical walk through The Song of Solomon and how it relates to marriage in today's society. Shane and Phyllis regularly teach at the Cannon Beach Conference Center. Apr 19-21 at Cannon Beach Conference Center. Details at [www.cbcc.net](http://www.cbcc.net).

April 2013

**Every Marriage Matters**

*Advocates for Healthy Marriage*

Check out additional resources at [www.EveryMarriageMatters.org](http://www.EveryMarriageMatters.org)